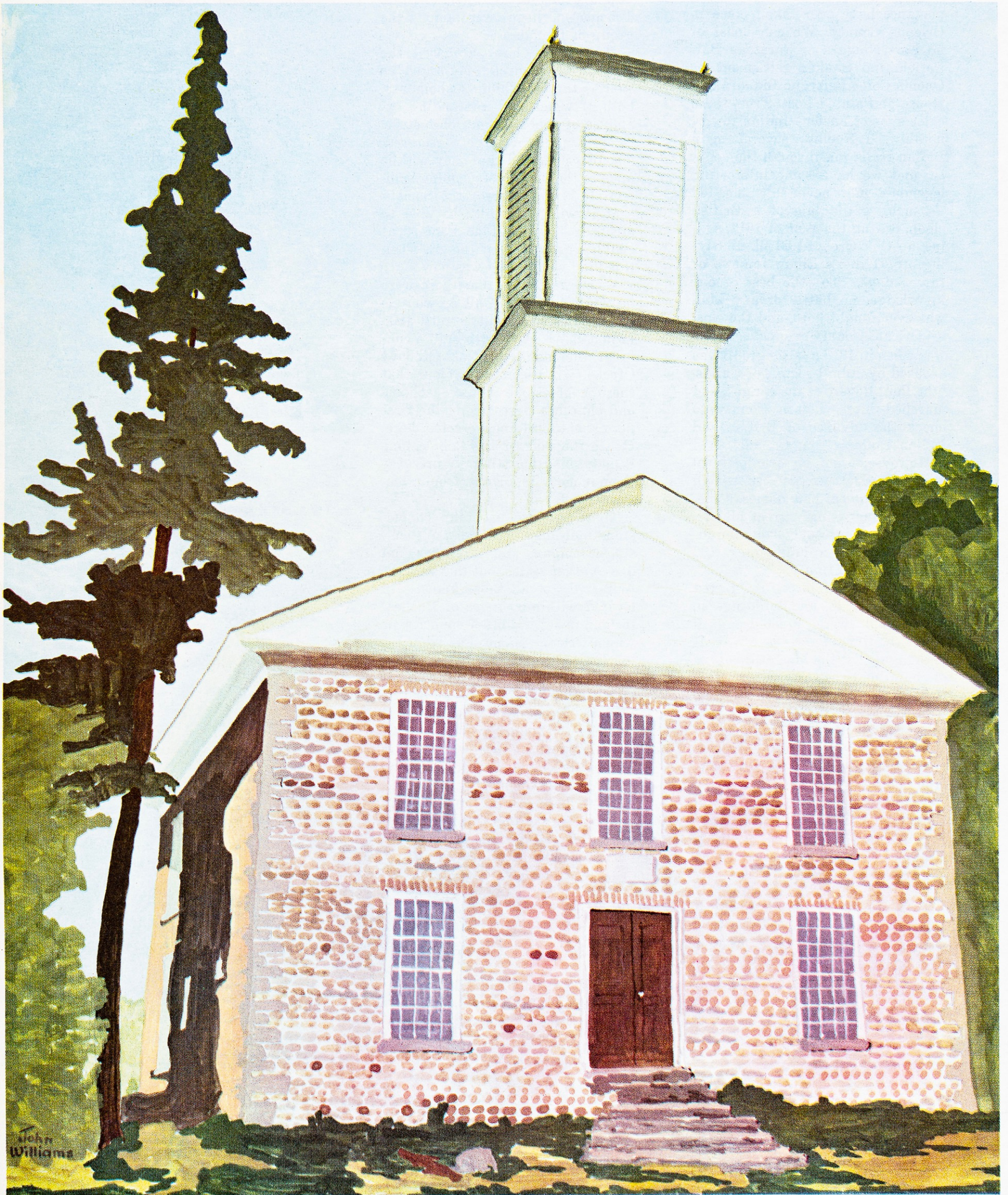

A HERITAGE OF

COBBLESTONE



An important Part of Our History

by **Sanford B. Church**

No great events of historical importance have ever taken place in Orleans County. We can boast of no Fort Niagara or Saratoga Battlefield, no Shaker settlement or Oneida Community, no Indian Long House or Painted Post. True, there exist sites of ancient Indian towns, notably in Shelby; several main Indian trails ran through the county, and we have some interesting legends — most never substantiated — such as the tale of a British sloop, during the War of 1812, sailing up Oak Orchard Creek and lying off Fiddler's Elbow for two or three days. To the best of our knowledge, no battle of any kind was ever fought here, and the closest Orleans County ever came to one was when in 1813 a large group was aroused by John Proctor, of Childs, "the Paul Revere of the Ridge", and marched into Niagara County to check the advance of British and Indian raiders from Canada.

However, from an architectural point of view, we possess within our geographical boundaries, something of increasingly great historical interest: our cobblestone buildings. There are approximately 100 of them in the County.

Cobblestone architecture started here about 1825, and buildings so constructed were erected until about the time of the Civil War. It is thought that the idea of this type of building was brought to this country by masons from Europe who worked on the construction of the original Erie Canal. For instance, the great cathedral at Chartres, in France, is a type of cobblestone building.

While it is true that some of these old buildings are far from perfect, most of them are very beautiful and are well worth preserving.

With the thought of preservation of these landmarks in mind, the Cobblestone Society was organized at Childs in October of 1960. Homer Brown, Cary Lattin, Howard Pratt, Miss Katherine Billings and Robert Frasch (at that time of Holley, but now a Professor at Cortland State Teacher's College) were among the group of founders.

The Society has purchased the very lovely church at Childs, as well as the old Childs schoolhouse, both of which are outstanding examples of cobblestone architecture. They have been largely restored, and it is expected that they will be open to the public this coming summer. It is the hope of the Society that it will eventually be able to create a "Cobblestone Center" at Childs, restored as of the era when this kind of building was new.

When we realize that there were no white settlers in all of what is now Orleans County until 1803 (when James Walworth built a cabin at the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek), it becomes obvious that these cobblestone houses, schools and churches were among the first permanent buildings erected here. Hence the task of the Cobblestone Society in attempting to preserve them is most important, from a historical point of view.

There are, we are told, cobblestone buildings in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and an occasional one in other states, but that at least four fifths of all those known are located within 80 miles of Rochester and in several other counties, of which Orleans is one. Far from being limited to this county, the Cobblestone Society's activities and membership encompasses all of this area, and even beyond. We feel that the Society should have the unqualified support of everyone who is interested in our heritage (which really should include us all), and that we here in Orleans County ought to awake to a full realization of the historical value of these important landmarks.

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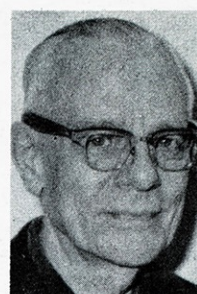
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The VILLAGE INN

Childs, New York

1824 - 1966

A mystery of masonry

Three eras Of change

Adapted from an article
by Carl F. Schmidt

Generally, we can say that Rochester, New York, is about the center of the cobblestone region. A circle around Rochester with a radius of sixty miles would include about ninety percent of all the existing cobblestone buildings. There are a number of cobblestone houses in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. In most localities, the first examples of these houses were erected by people who had migrated from the New York State cobblestone area.

There is no particular secret regarding the construction of this type of masonry wall — using small stones laid in horizontal rows. Masons have used small stones to build walls for centuries and some of the French examples closely resemble the local cobblestone work. In England there were walls built of small stone called “flint-heads”.

The first cobblestone houses were built of fieldstones dropped by the glaciers that once covered the Great Lakes area. The stones were a great source of trouble to the pioneer farmers planting their fields. Children often helped to clear the fields, sort and size the stones by dropping them through a hole cut in a board or through an iron ring.

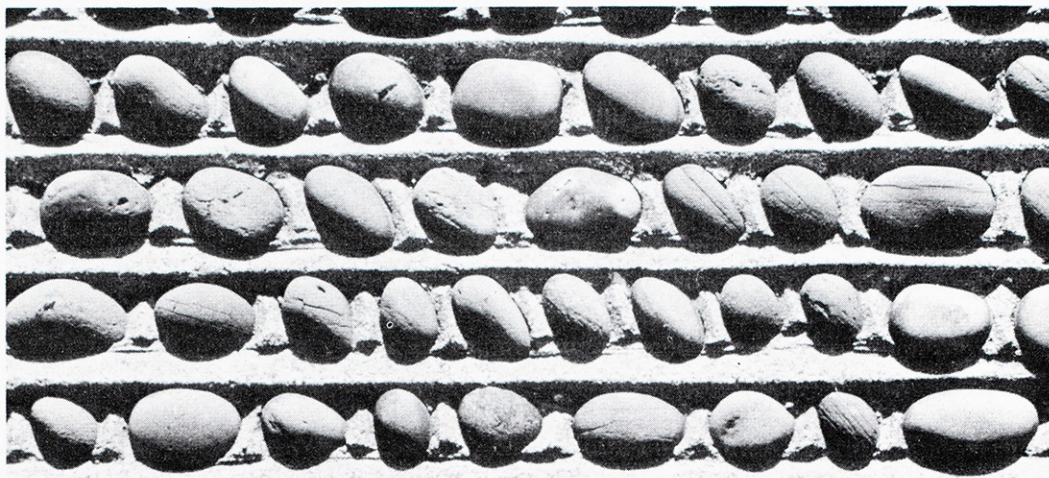
In order to build the numerous cobblestone buildings many masons were needed. Masons were plentiful because the Erie Canal between Rochester and Buffalo was dug through sandstone which was then used for constructing locks and bridge abutments. Still more masons were needed to complete the canal on time. Additional masons were brought in from New England and Pennsylvania. With the completion of the canal many remained as settlers. They provided the skill for cobblestone building and were glad to supplement their farm income. Also cobblestone walls did not require expensive painting.

Cobblestone masonry can be easily traced through the Early Period, 1825-35; Middle Period, 1835-45; Late Period, 1845 to the end of the Civil War. The passing of the generation of masons that worked on the Erie Canal and the increase of wages caused by the Civil War ended the era of cobblestone masonry.

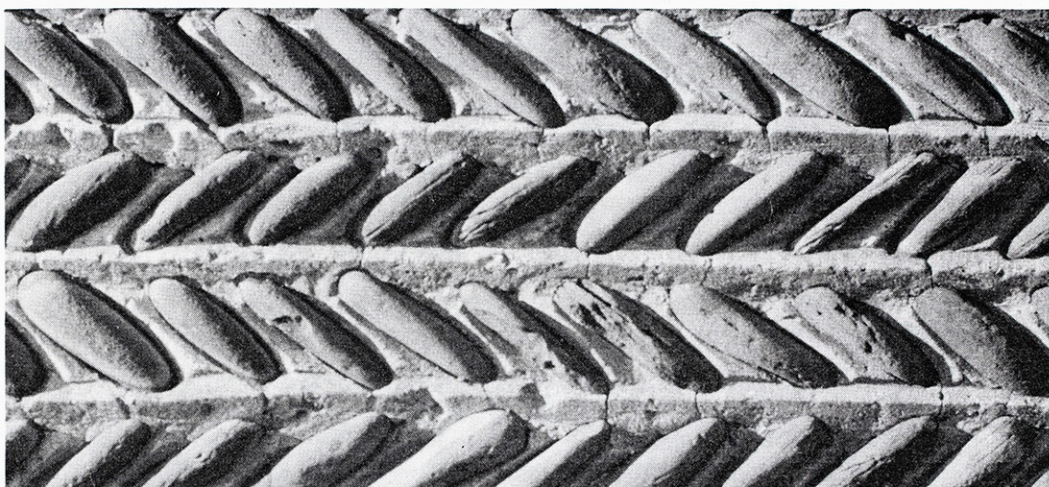
During the first half of the Early Period the masons used stones of various sizes and shapes as well as different colors, from two and one-half to three inches high. The horizontal mortar joint was a wavy, irregular line, formed into a flat “V” shape by the mason holding his trowel at an angle. The “V” joint made the stones appear to project beyond the surface giving a highlighted and shaded surface as well as a shadow.



Early cobblestone work lacked finesse.



Later period showed decorative order.



Unique “herringbone” pattern became part of work.

the width of the horizontal joints.

In the Middle Period the carefully selected stones averaged from one and one-half to two and one-half inches high. About the late “thirties” the masons began to mix rounded water-washed stones with field stones. Found in gravel pits and along the lake shore, the round or oval stones varied from gray to dark red. At first mixed colored stones were used, later the red or red-brown color predominated.

In the early “forties” some mason made a metal tool that would form a joint and used a straight-edge to make a straight line. During the Late Period carefully selected stones averaging an inch to an inch and one-half high were used with joints not over three-quarters of an inch wide.

The character of the cobblestone wall had completely changed. From being an integral part of the wall, the cobblestones became, as the size reduced, merely a veneer. The sparkle of the variegated walls gave way to the monotonous, ma-

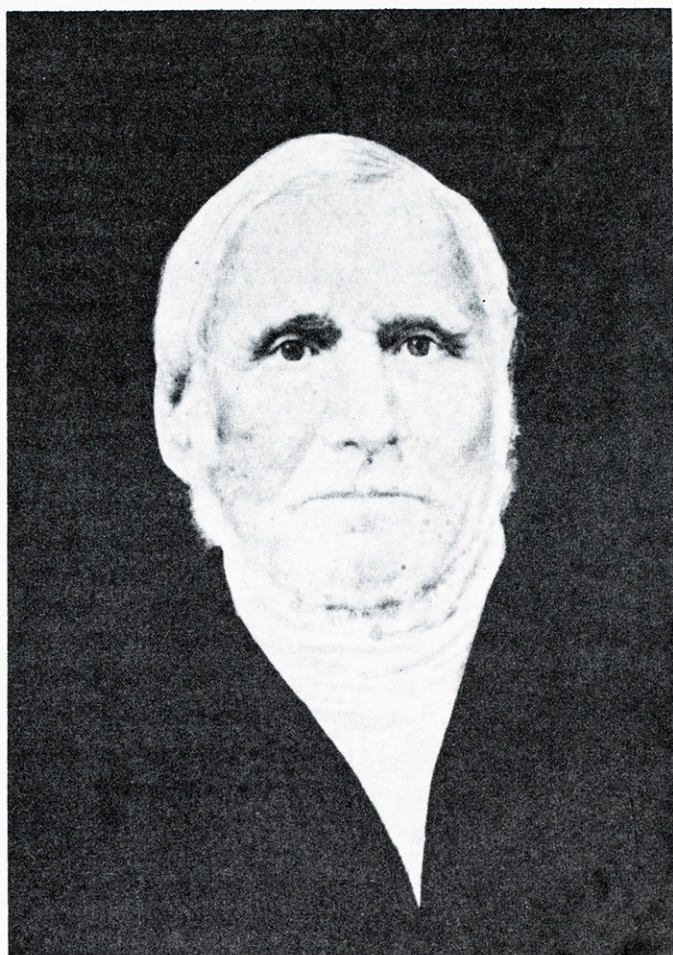
Later in the Early Period the ma-

sons selected stones of a more uniform size, laid with straight horizontal mortar joints. They also began to embellish the vertical joints with a projecting “V” of mortar or a small pointed pyramid. The tendency was to use smaller and smaller stones and to reduce chine-made appearance of the small, selected stones.

During the Middle Period, when craftsmanship and skill were nearly balanced, the best work was done. The masons vied with each other in experimenting with new methods and patterns of laying the cobblestones. Some selected only squarish stones, others oval shapes. The oval shapes were set in the wall vertically, or diagonally, sloping the stones to the right or left. Herringbone patterns were common, using thin oval-shaped stones.

Methods used by the various masons were never recorded so are lost. Some masons made every effort to keep their particular methods secret although there is no particular secret of laying such a wall that present day masons could not learn or rediscover.

Tradition began with John Proctor's endowment



by Katharine H. Billings

John Proctor's will, made several years before his death, provided for the economic security of the Universalist Church at Fairhaven (Childs). He willed the church a hundred acre farm near The Bridges, income from which he felt would keep the Universalist Society running for a time. As an original in-

vestor in the first international bridge across the Niagara River, he left his son life use of twenty-four shares in that company. At the son's death, the church was to inherit these shares outright. The farm was sold before Mr. Proctor's death but the church did inherit the stock during the eighteen-nineties.

When the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church of Albion became

a reality in 1895, most members of the Fairhaven Church attended the regular services under a full-time pastor in Albion but they continued to meet annually to elect a board of trustees and vote to spend the dividends of their International Bridge stock. In 1899 the Albion pastor held services at Fairhaven on three Sundays in June.

From this grew a tradition that held for over fifty years. At least twice each summer, the Albion society met for services at the Fairhaven church. The church was kept in repair and cleaned before these services. Annually, in late April the "Fairhaven Board" met at the church, elected trustees, looked over the property and voted the spending of the bridge stock dividends which had increased considerably.

Another tradition grew with the first. Collateral descendants of John Proctor (and there were several) claimed that the society, in order to keep the bridge dividends, must hold two services annually and keep the Childs church in repair. Were the church to default, the Proctor inheritance would revert to these heirs by specification of Mr. Proctor's will.

Finally the bridge stock was called for redemption. This necessitated a careful reading of the Proctor will. No mention of Sunday services or upkeep was made; nor was there mention of heirs other than the son long deceased.

Then it was that the State Board of the Universalist Church declared the Childs church "abandoned" and considered the sale of the real property. It was from that organization that the Cobblestone Society finally gained ownership of the church.

From whence did they come?

by J. Howard Pratt

The question is often asked, who were the Cobblestone Masons? Did they enter our county with the knowledge of Cobblestone architecture or did they develop it here? As each mason jealously guarded his trade secrets, not recording them, we have few published facts. We are told on good authority that when visitors appeared, the masons postponed their secret skill and proceeded with some plain work until the visitor departed. We do know that the builders were very careful in the choice of the sand and lime to use in the building program. We do have a few choice bits of information handed down by the neighboring boys to the following generation.

By the census of 1855 we are told

that five masons had been living in the town of Gaines for a number of years. Without a doubt they constructed the large part of the stone buildings in that period. The oldest mason in years and in residence in the town was Archibal Watson, age 61 who had lived 25 years in Gaines. In 1855 Cyrus Witherell was 35 years old, born in this county and probably had worked at his trade some 18 years. We do know that he helped build the Saunders house in 1840 thus making him 20 years old at the time. James Thompson was 38 years old and had lived here 16 years. Adam Armstrong was 26 years old and born here. He could have worked 8 years prior to 1855 on our stone houses.

Delphi Thompson was only 20 years old at this time therefore his work was not important. It can be

safely said that the first four men built a large part of our Cobblestone Houses beginning at 1830. Other masons could have worked here, then moved west to build similar houses in the western states.

It is my belief that these masons developed their skill and know-how as the years past, planning and learning as they worked. It needed a whole season to build one house and only one was worked on at a time. To those old silent artisans we can only look and wonder in admiration.

Arthur C. Parker, one time Director of Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, has summed it all up in his words, "Homes were built and the vogue of Cobblestone Architecture but served to stamp the road with its symbol of genius, pointing out its uniqueness."

ALBION OIL COMPANY

Gaines' Paul Revere

by Eleanor W. Wilder

There is a legend that rides the historic Ridge Road. It is the story of John Proctor, a pioneer, who grew with his community, endowed it with a church and was able to provide for its continuance through many years. Today through the efforts of the Cobblestone Society, the Universalist Church at Childs is being restored, a shrine to pioneer religion.

And John Proctor gained other acclaim. Mounted on a granite boulder outside his home in Gaines (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Murray) is a New York State Historical marker carrying this inscription:

"Genesee to Niagara: The home of John Proctor, who on a horse during a December night in 1813, warned the settlers along the Ridge Road from here to Clarkson of the approach of the British and Indians after the burning of Lewiston. The next night they surprised and captured the enemy forces chartered at Molyneaux tavern."

John Proctor was born in Dunstable, Mass., on Jan. 22, 1787. His story is the saga of many pioneers. He came to Gaines in 1810 and purchased land near the Transit Line. That first year he chopped over five acres of woods and built his log cabin. Here at "Nine Mile Woods" he kept bachelors hall sleeping in the open air on hemlock boughs until the bark roof on his cabin was completed. He found life pretty lonely, his nearest neighbor to the West was two miles and to the east seven miles, north, Lake Ontario and south, Batavia Village.

That December he went back to his old home in Dunstable on foot, courted and married Miss Polly Cummings on Feb. 11, 1812. The first of his four wives. The following day they loaded their belongings in a sleigh drawn by two horses for the return trip to Gaines.

There were then only three families in Gaines. It was 20 miles to the nearest grist mill at Black Creek but the bad roads made it quicker to mill in Rochester, 30 miles away.

In the fall of 1812 he harvested

a good crop from his three acres of corn and five acres of wheat. His family were never hungry.

Like many other early settlers John Proctor took his turn at relating his early experiences at a meeting of the Pioneers Society, where he served as a vice president for many years. These reminiscences were adapted in 1871 to form Arad Thomas Pioneer History of Orleans County.

John Proctor was 76 years old when he told his story at the Pioneer Society meeting but he was able to recapture again for those listening the excitement of those early days.

"In the winter of 1813-14" related John Proctor," the British and Indians came over from Canada and massacred several inhabitants on the frontier. Many settlers fled out of the country for safety. The people throughout this region were in great consternation. The news of the approach of the savages spread rapidly."

"William Burlingame, who resided about four miles west of my place on the Ridge called me out of bed to go immediately and arouse the people to the east. I mounted my horse and before the next daylight had visited all the inhabitants as far east as Clarkson.

"The effect of the notice was almost electric for quite a regiment of men were on the move next morning to check the advance of the enemy. We marched west to a place called Hardscrabble near Lewiston and there performed a sort of garrison duty for two weeks.

"Again in September, while the war was still in progress at and near Fort Erie, in Canada, news came to us that the British were about to attack the Fort and our troops must be re-enforced. In company with several others I volunteered to go to their relief. On arriving at the Fort, via Buffalo, we made several attacks on the enemy near the Fort and in the woods opposite Black Rock.

"A sortie was made from the Fort September 17th, in which we routed the enemy. In these actions several bullets passed through my clothes, and one grazed my finger.

"A man in our company named Howard was killed, another named Sheldon was wounded and Moses Bacon taken prisoner and carried to Halifax.

"In that sortie General Davis of LeRoy was killed, and Gen. Peter B. Porter was taken prisoner and carried to Halifax. We came home after an absence of twenty-four days."

The next year John Proctor as tax collector collected over \$100 in taxes, made his returns at Batavia as town collector, received the deed

to his hundred acre farm and took article for another hundred-acre section. He was named town constable.

Our associations in our wilderness home, undergoing fatigue, sharing alike in gratitude for every success, and in sympathy for every adversity, bound the early settlers together as a band of brothers, wrote John Proctor.

For although he became highly successful in buying and selling properties, great personal tragedy marked his life. In 1828, typhoid fever took the lives of his 12 year-old son, two year old daughter and his wife who were laid to rest beside his two infant sons, both named Jerome N.

It was following the death of his second wife, Clarissa Lee in 1832 that he began thinking about building a church at Childs, then known as Proctor's Corners. There were several handsome cobblestone buildings in the area.

After looking around for a place to build in 1883, he made a deal for the present church site. Two minutes after the transaction he had the first load of stone dumped. Work was begun for the trenches of the foundation and the cobblestone building pushed to completion.

The inscription over the entrance reads: "Erected by the First Universalist Society in the year 1834 A. D. God is Love."

When John Proctor wrote his will in 1862 he provided for his wife Elizabeth, taking care of her "creature comforts" including the homestead farm, his best top buggy and carriage horses, five cows and one slip in the Universalist Meeting House at Fair Haven (Childs). But Elizabeth died four years later voiding the provisions in the will. Only two of his children lived to maturity, Clarissa and William.

At age 77 John Proctor married his fourth wife, Cynthia Lee Mudgett Hurd, the sister of his second wife. He died in 1868, aged 81 years.

His earlier will had made provision for the continuance of the church through the income from a 132-acre farm in Waterport beside the Waterport bridge and upon the death of his son, William, the income from twenty-four \$100 shares of stock in Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge was transferred to the church society.

Although John Proctor never formally joined the Childs Universalist Church he summed up his religious beliefs in his will. He wrote "I resign my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping and believing in final salvation of all men through the merits and meditations of Jesus Christ, our saviour, who will have all men saved and come to the knowledge of truth."

Landauer's of Albion

Our 101st Yr. - Albion New York

1865-1966

Orleans County's Leading Clothiers

Cobblestones came from Lake Iroquois



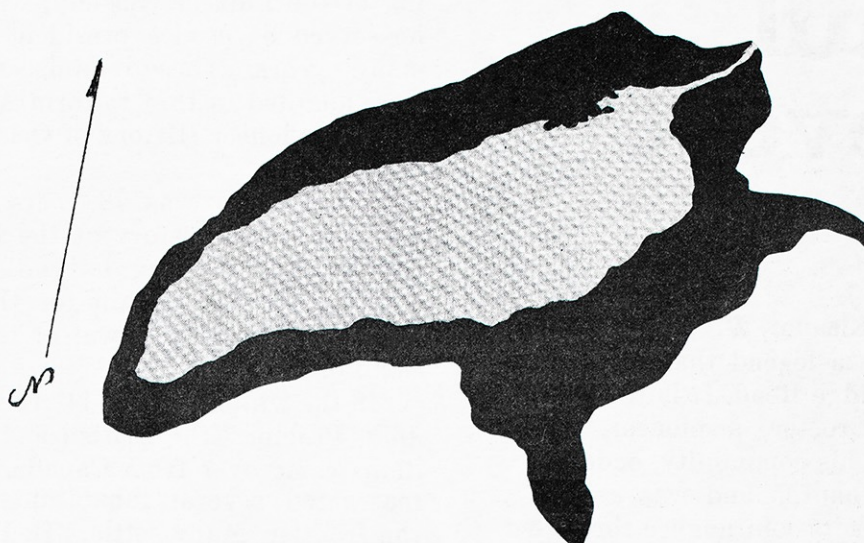
by J. Howard Pratt

There is no other road in all America like the hundred mile ridge of land beginning at the Niagara River and extending beyond the Genesee far into Wayne County.

It is remarkable because of the action of the waves of old Lake Iroquois some ten or twelve thousand years ago. The waves worked for a period of perhaps a thousand years rolling over and over the stones of this beach with those brought from Canada by the Glacier. This rolling, washing and wearing produced the smooth, rounded cobblestones found so abundantly along the old shore.

To be sure the waves gave the ridge its clean sand and gravel needed in construction of our stone buildings. The other location of material for cobblestone construction is the present lake shore where we can still see the smoothing and polishing of the stones.

In some places along the Ridge the waves were very generous and



Cobblestones (left) were thought to have been gleaned from the shores of Lake Iroquois (black area) which once dwarfed the size of present-day Lake Ontario (shown within black area).

deposited great quantities of these stones. So many in fact that they obstructed the progress of the farmer. After gathering the stones the farmer disposed of them, therefore he used the refuse to build his home.

Some were hauled from the present lake shore but the majority of those used along the Ridge were of local origin. At the time of clearing the land of stone, many masons were looking for work due to the completion of the Erie Canal. They offered to build the settlers perm-

anent homes from the wastes of the fields. During the period from 1825, when the Canal was completed to 1855 our cobblestone legacy was constructed.

The above map shows old Lake Iroquois, the Ridge and the numerous locations of Cobblestone structures along the old shore. The Cobblestone Society invites you drive along this old highway, to study and enjoy these beautiful unique buildings of the past and to join with us in preserving them for the future.

Society executives

by Mrs. Richard L. Canuteson

The Cobblestone Society was formed at the first meeting on Sunday, October 23, 1960 in the 1834 Universalist Church in Childs. Officers and directors, elected at that time, have served until now with but few changes.

Robert Frasch of Holley and later of Cortland, president; Maurice Wilson, vice-president; Miss Katharine Billings, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Thompson, treasurer, the last three of the Albion area. In 1964 Miss Billings declined re-election and Mrs. Richard Canuteson succeeded her. In 1965 Maurice Wilson and Mrs. Charles Thompson declined re-election and were succeeded by Olaf William Shelgren Jr., of Buffalo, as vice-president and Mrs. William Phillips, of Hulberton, as treasurer.

The Board of ten directors was elected at the first meeting: John Brush of Webster, Carl F. Schmidt of Scottsville, Homer Brown, Mrs. E. Earl Harding, Mrs. Richard Canuteson, Cary Lattin, Curtis Lyman,

Curtis Murray, Howard Pratt and Ora Woodcock, all of the Albion area. Lots were drawn and some had a three year term, some two and some only one year. Director Woodcock declined a second term and James E. Hunt replaced him in 1962. Olaf William Shelgren Jr. joined the Board when Mrs. Canuteson was shifted to the secretary's office in 1964. Myron Babbitt was elected when James E. Hunt resigned with one year of his term unfinished. Ward Wilson of Waterport joined the group in 1965 when Mr. Shelgren became vice-president leaving two years of his term uncompleted.

Thus, since the beginning of the Cobblestone Society, only three officers and two directors have left the executive group. All have worked untiringly for the promotion of Cobblestone Society and its restoration projects. Pressing personal interests caused these dedicated Cobblestoners to leave the Board of the Society but they continued their work and interest in its activities.

The future

What lies ahead in the restoration program of the Cobblestone Church? With the auditorium restoration past the critical stage, work will be done outside the church to return it to an earlier appearance.

The elevated terrace which flanks each side of the entrance is the first spring undertaking. At one time families with their buggies or sleighs could drive up and unload on the terrace of handmade brick. The retaining wall is in a weakened condition.

Hitching sheds will be rebuilt in the rear and probably used for part of the exhibit of pioneer tools.

Completing the restoration the white board fence that marked the boundaries will enclose the grounds. All this can be done if the funds are forthcoming or members work as diligently as they have in the past.

Maine Lumber Co. Inc.

Albion, N. Y.

"Congratulations to the Cobblestone Society and Best Wishes for a Successful Future"

William J. Babbitt

by Eleanor W. Wilder

It was spring in 1820 and the children of William J. and Eunice Los-ey Babbitt played around the base of the cherry tree. There were Lysander 8, Amey 7, Jefferson 4, and Wainright 2. Little Persena slept in the crib near her mother in the log cabin home beside the Ridge Road in Gaines. Eunice hummed a tune as she glanced at her children playing in the yard.

It was not a rosy dream that William J. Babbitt held out to his bride when they were married June 27, 1810 at Ovid, N. Y. He was leaving to finish clearing the land on his Gaines section and to build a log cabin home so she might join him. But it was not until 1813 after the threat of the War of 1812 that she joined her husband in Gaines with year old Lysander and baby Amey.

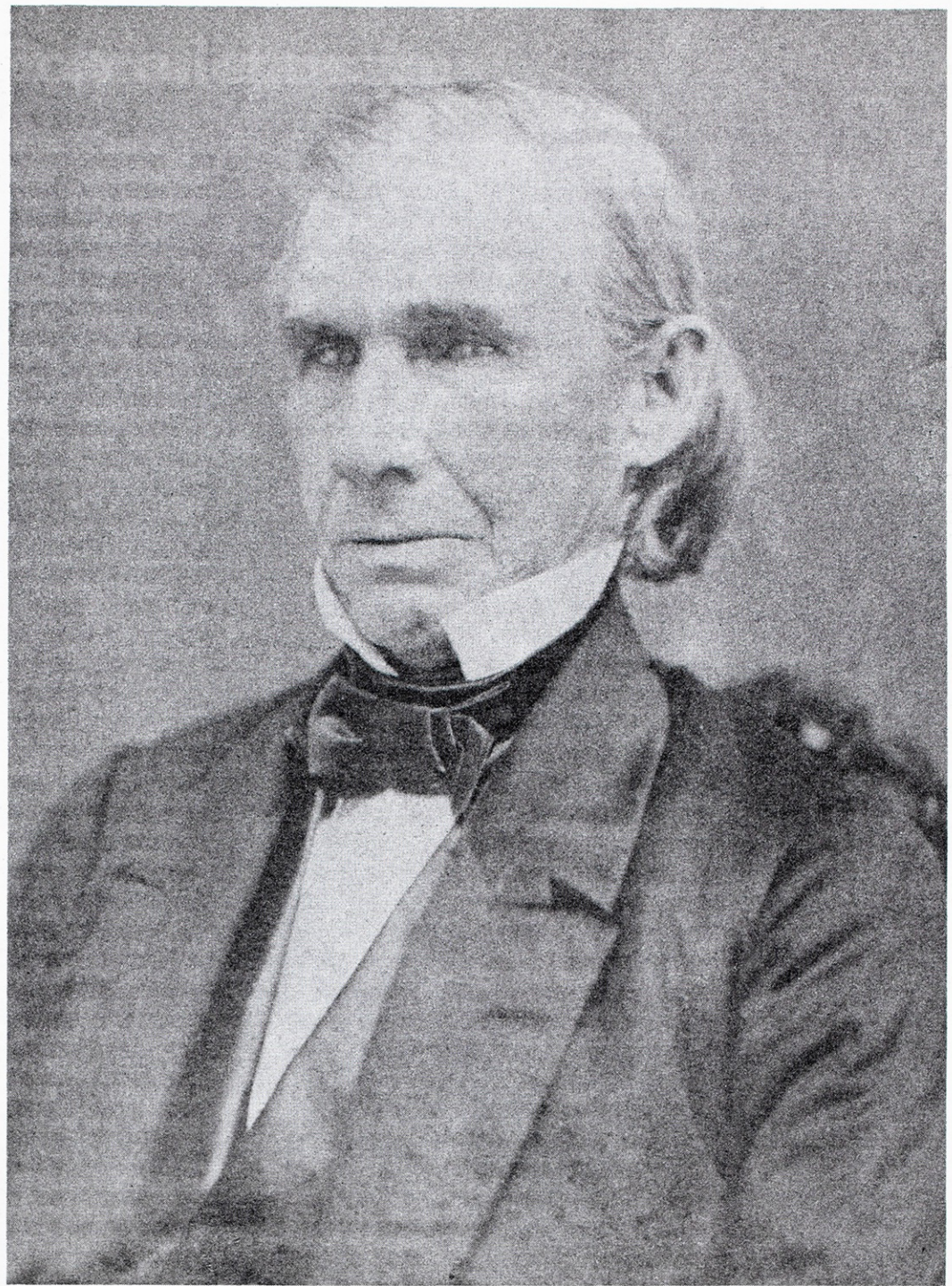
The true memorial to the Hon. William J. Babbitt, Esquire, is not in the handsomely carved cherry drop leaf tables, made from that cherry tree, that now grace the living room of his great grandchildren Mrs. Milton Kast, Holley Road, and Myron Babbitt, West Street, Albion. It is not his record of public service but the plaque carved in sandstone above the entrance of the Cobblestone School at Childs that reads:

"School District No. 5, Town of Gaines, A. D. 1849. Wm. J. Babbitt, esq. gratuitously superintended the erection of this building and made the district a present of this bell." He was then 63 years old and had achieved distinction along the Niagara Frontier.

William Jenks Babbitt was born September 15, 1786 in Providence, Rhode Island. Little is known of his early life. His mother's family were landed gentry. He attended school in Providence and learned the trade of blacksmith in his father's shop.

He came to Gaines in 1810 and, when he had cleared his land, began doing blacksmith chores and established the first area brickyard.

Appointed Justice of Peace in 1815, he began to gain affluence as a champion of causes. After traveling to Ovid several times on foot, he began working to get the Post Road along the Ridge. In 1816 he applied and was named the first postmaster of Gaines. His Valentines Day gift to his wife in 1816 was the announcement that Gaines had been



William Babbitt

set off from Ridgeway, then containing most of Barre and Carlton. He worked hard to get the town organized. It was at his suggestion that Gaines was named in honor of General E. P. Gaines, U. S. Army.

Serving as a Justice of Peace for 23 years, Babbitt soon gained the reputation in Justice Courts as the best "pettifogger" this side of the Tonawanda Swamp.

In a letter still treasured by his great grandchildren, his mother wrote him in 1821 begging him not to give up the postmastership because then she would have to pay the postage between Providence and Gaines. This indicates that the high postage, before the days of stamps, was collected when a letter was delivered.

While still serving as a justice of peace, Babbitt became actively interested in politics. In 1831 he became supervisor of the Town of Gaines and the same year was named to the Assembly. Whether he was re-elected Supervisor when he returned from the Assembly or finished his previous term is not indi-

cated.

It was his hope to secure a railroad along the Ridge Road but the story is related that larger interests in Lockport were successful in establishing the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Falls Railroad Company in 1852 absorbed by the New York Central that traveled through Albion. The same year he served as commissioner in resurveying the Ridge Road.

The story is told about the day his wife insisted he sit for a daguerreotype. In his work clothes he was obviously pretty angry. The photographer dubbed in a high white collar and shirt front. The picture has been preserved through the years. He died July 20, 1863.

Each time the schoolbell rings out over the Gaines country-side, it is a living memorial to the Hon. William J. Babbitt, Esq., who, according to Arad Thomas' Pioneer History, acquired a reputation for uncompromising fidelity in business matters and by a life of industry and economy laid up a large property

Albion Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n

48 N. Main St. Albion

31 Years of Service



One schoolhouse, A bargain at \$129

by Helen E. Allen

The cobblestone schoolhouse at Childs was the first building acquired by the Cobblestone Society. At a Board meeting on May 17, 1961, Mr. Curtis Lyman reported that the deed to the property had been received from Gaines District No. 5 and recorded. The cost to the Society was \$129. The task of cleaning, repairing and furnishing the building as a one room school museum was promptly begun. Most of the labor was donated by members of the Society.

Repairs included replacing the century ago. Loaned or donated are exhibits of early teacher's certificates issued for one year, merit cards awarded to studious pupils, and the invitations to local social events received by one teacher. Still in place are the teacher's desk and chair and some old pictures and maps on the wall. The girls' entrance converted into a library, and a piano mark the twentieth century use of the schoolhouse. The boy's entrance, later used by all the pupils, contains the water pail and

dipper, washbasin and towel which old roof and painting exterior wood surfaces. The old slanting floor was left. Some of the desks in use when the school closed in 1952 were replaced by older ones found in the basement and by replicas of the original home made ones. The old black painted blackboards remain. Well worn textbooks, slates and other simple nineteenth century district school equipment was collected. A showcase in the rear contains keepsakes, small toys and old-time tiny books used by children a with an outhouse on each side of the playground in the rear, took the place of modern plumbing. On hooks in the entrance hang some old fashioned clothing for children.

The Cobblestone School Museum was opened to the public in June 1962. Members of the Society have been on hand Saturday afternoons during the summer months, and at other times by appointment, to serve as guides. Their readiness to answer questions and friendly enthusiasm for the project add much to the value of the museum. People

from all over the United States and several foreign countries have visited the old schoolhouse. Among the most interested have been the children of several fifth grades who have been brought to the museum. Groups of future teachers from the State University College at Brockport found much to learn here about district school education. Comments of these children and young people who had little previous knowledge of one room country schools, prove the worth of the Cobblestone School Museum.

The school at Childs was really not quite the primitive institution of learning that some of the modern students considered it. Landmarks of Orleans County states that a schoolhouse was built at Childs in 1817. That would have been a rude cabin with very small windows on each side, a fireplace in one end and a door at the other with rough benches for the children to sit on.

The pioneers who began to transform the wilderness of this area little more than a century and a half ago did not labor for food and shelter alone. They strongly believed that faith in God and good education were equally necessary for their children. As soon as possible the men worked together to build schoolhouses. Then on Sundays they used them for religious services. The schoolhouse at Childs was built only one year after the town of Gaines was organized and the first school districts laid out, and only ten years after the first family in the entire town built a cabin home in the woods about where the Curtis Murray residence now stands. This schoolhouse probably stood on the south side of the Ridge Road on a small lot in the northeast corner of the farm now owned by Frank Swiercznski.

Farmers of that period often gave permission to build a school on their land even though they themselves did not yet hold a deed to the property. A few years after George H. Everitt received his deed from the Holland Land Co. he deeded the school lot to District No. 5 on February 14, 1838. When the pioneers became more prosperous they wanted better schools. In January 1847 the District purchased a larger lot on the opposite side of the road, from John Proctor for fifty dollars. Here the fine new cobblestone schoolhouse was built. A public spirited citizen, William J. Babbitt, freely gave his time to supervise the construction and also donated the bell. Both her and the workmen performed their tasks well, for today, 117 years after it was completed in 1849, the cobblestone schoolhouse stands sturdy and useful.

The time came when the children of District No. 5 again required better educational facilities. Changing conditions dictated the centralization of schools. After sheltering area pupils for 103 years the cobblestone schoolhouse was empty. Now, under the direction of the Cobblestone Society, it not only serves a much larger area as a nineteenth century district school museum but also stands as a monument to our pioneer forefathers' devotion to education.

Glances at Cobblestone Education

by Virginia Lattin Morrison

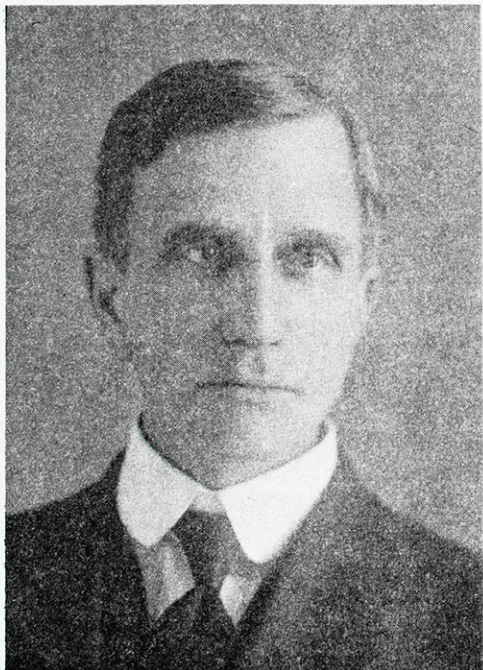
Gaines has always been interested in giving the best education possible to its children. In 1813 a twelve foot log cabin between Gaines and Childs was set aside for this purpose. Part of this is now incorporated in the William Morrison home on the north side of the Ridge. A real building was established at the four corners in Gaines Village and after 1817 was known as District No. 4. The tract of land where this building now stands was deeded by the Holland Land Company to Oliver Booth on January 4, 1817. He in turn deeded it to Caleb Knapp on July 18, 1839. Caleb and Ann Knapp then, on June 9, 1844, deeded the property to the Trustees of School District No. 4, for the sum of \$65.

The Albion Central School District kept the property until December 8, 1958 when they deeded it to the Gaines Community Center which in turn deeded it to the Cobblestone Society on July 27, 1962.

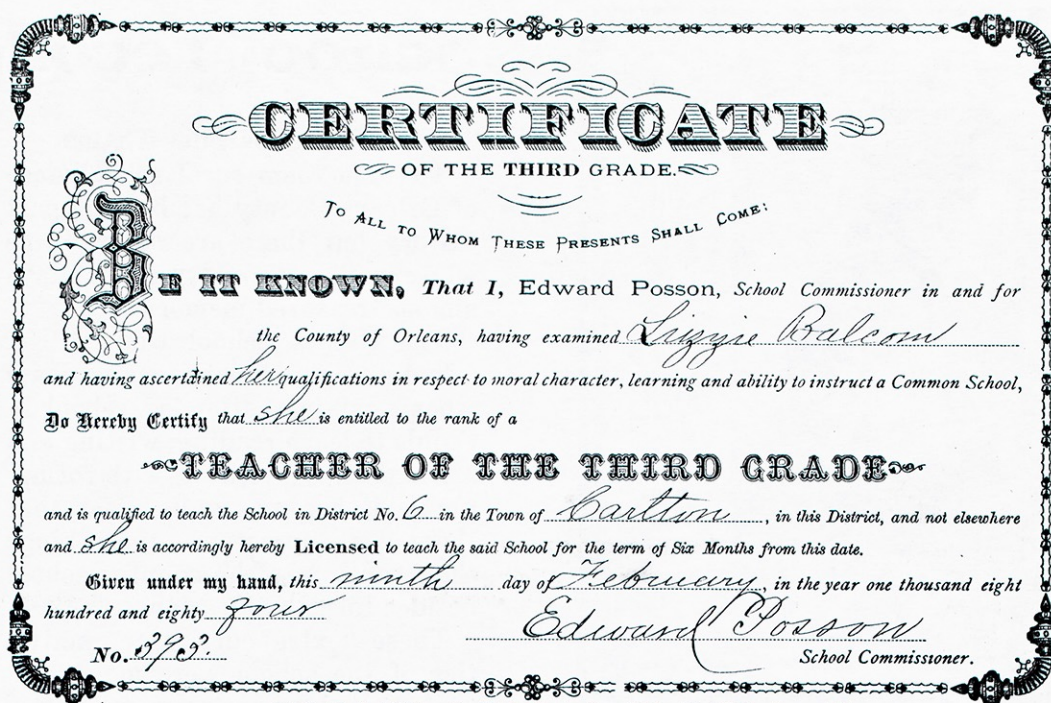
The first teacher in the village school was Paris Dolley. His assistant was Miss Mary Stout. Others who taught there were Clarissa Burbank, Mrs. H. J. Hovey who in 1837 was ordained as pastor of the Gaines Church and the Hon. Almanzor Hutchinson. In 1879 it was said, "The public school in the village at the present time is second to that of no other village of its size in the country."

In 1882 a new wood floor was laid and at the school meeting the trustee demanded that he be given enough money to buy hooks for the blinds and locks for the doors.

The school year 1882-1883 began with Frank H. Lattin (member of New York State Assembly 1916-1929) teaching the advanced group and Miss Edith Dunning in charge



Frank H. Lattin



Third grade teaching certificate of Lizzie Balcom.

of the primary room.

The following notes were taken from a diary kept by Dr. Lattin at that time:

January 11, 1883 — at school — had examinations today — scholars stand better than expected.

January 12. Had examinations this A. M. Speaking this P. M. All the girls responded and part of the boys — rest will respond later.

March 10. Cool and rainy. Walked to Albion to see about cards for my scholars. Went to see Miss Dunning. She is quite sick.

March 12. Miss Dunning still sick. I shall teach both rooms this week.

Ho! for a picnic —

March 16. My winter term of school closed this day — have taught 80 days.

March 22. Got my school money for winter term this morn. \$136.

March 26. Warm and pleasant. Commenced spring term of school — 19 scholars in advanced room. New schedule.

School hours:

Commence A. M. 8:30

Recess 10:15 — 10:30

Noon 12:00 — 1:00 P. M.

Close 3:13 P. M.

April 2. At school — whipped Homer Parker for making obscene picture on Perry Fellows book.

May 9. Very cold for this time of year — Strawberry vines have badly winter killed. Stayed after school this p.m. to drill my "young ideas" in their dialogues.

May 22. At school — Belle Perry got mad and took her books and went home.

At the Old Schoolmates Reunion in 1924 this last incident was much talked about. But no one could remember why the lady was so angry.

No record has been found of when the school was modernized with the banks of windows in each room. The picture of the Old Schoolmates Reunion pictures three windows to the south so it was after 1824. While trustee, Guilford D. Ward had the bell and belfry placed on the school-house.

Since 1882 the size of the school has fluctuated from two rooms to one room and back. When Virginia Lattin Morrison went there in 1912-1917 there was just one room but



Miss Lizzie Balcom

about forty students. In the '30's there were enough children in the district to necessitate the use of both rooms. The late '40's saw the attendance dwindle so that in 1953 when the district school was closed only one room was in use.

In 1898 the teachers were paid \$7.00 and 5.00 per week. The budget for the school year 1906-1907 was \$493.09. When the school closed the budget was a little over \$6,000. The price of education had risen but had the quality changed?

In addition to teachers mentioned in the text, this is a partial list of those who taught before 1924: Arthur J. Weed, Miss Garrison, Lowell Smith, Courtland M. Chester, C. H. Bidelman, Lloyd Crossett, Carrie Kenny Berston, Jennie Hutchinson McKendry, Cora Skinner Porter, Belle Davis, Sadie Rice Fuller, Helen Andrews Beckwith, Frank Thurber, Miss Carrie Kenny, Net Bason, Alexander Filer, Frank Chester, Susie Ruggles and Julia Wilder.



Early merit award

No frills, But still We learned

by Norris W. Vagg

It had no swimming pool, no gymnasium - not even inside plumbing - but the old cobblestone District No. 5 one-room schoolhouse was a place of learning.

We didn't start French or Spanish in third grade, but we did learn to read, write and spell English. We had Christmas and Easter vacations and sometimes took time to plant a tree on Arbor Day - but the rest of the time we LEARNED.

We learned to concentrate while other classes recited. Our work done, we learned by osmosis and eavesdropping when those other reciting grades were more advanced than ours. I learned you could make money writing by winning a countywide WCTU essay contest, and I learned you could lose it by missing one word of 500 in a similar spelling contest.

No gymnasium? The entire outdoors (for a 15-minute recess) was there for baseball, wrestling, foot-racing, acrobatics on the ledge half-way up the cobblestone walls or a bicycle rodeo for the admiring girls. Teachers didn't interfere nor referee unless blood-letting started.

Teaching was tutoring, because each of us had individual attention. I wouldn't trade a moment of it for the mad rush of buses, hurrying through crowded corridors, cafeteria rowdyism and the impersonality of 35-in-a - centralized - one-grade schoolroom today.

But then, like District 5, perhaps I'm old and beyond my time.

School recollections

by Janice Barnum Thaine

The one room rural schoolhouse of Orleans County has become past history but there are many of us who recall our country school-days among treasured memories.

The Gaines School District No. 5 had a span of many, many years when children attended school in Childs to learn reading, writing and arithmetic. By visiting with former pupils it becomes quite clear that there were numerous other things that went on in the country school besides formal education.

These "extra curricular" activities of the school were many and varied. It does not seem to matter which years the children attended school, today there are two things everyone remembers. First are the wonderful Christmas programs each year and the second memory is of the "great" baseball games.

Many hours of preparation went into those Christmas programs. There were recitations to be learned, solos and choral songs practiced, parts for the Christmas play to be memorized, crepe paper costumes had to be made, drill formations worked out, decorations for the school and Christmas tree and small gifts fashioned for each relative who might attend.

Work on this special Christmas celebration always began at Thanksgiving for school lessons were never put aside until the last week before Christmas vacation which was devoted entirely to the coming entertainment. While the older boys went to the nearby woods for a tree the other pupils decorated the school.

One of the ladies in the community officiated at the piano or organ depending on whether the entertainment overflowed the school and had to be held in the church.

There was the year one of the older boys worked so hard to light the tree lights with car batteries and just before the entertainment electric lights were installed.

Whenever the boys could get some "extra" time, recess, noon hour, before and even after school — whenever the weather would permit — there was that familiar cry "Let's play ball!" There was the time the Childs School met a picked team of boys from all other schools in Gaines and won. In later years the boys allowed the girls to join their game but, whenever a team lost, the girls' poor playing was always to blame.

The planting of trees around the Childs school is recalled by former students. Each Arbor Day the teacher and pupils would make a

trip to the woods for a tree to plant in the school yard. Back at school the tree roots wrapped in burlap and wetted down properly, the formal exercise would begin with songs and recitations. Then the tree was planted. Few of these trees lived.

One that did was a tree that surprised everyone because the man who lived next to the school chained his cow to it, wearing away the bark.

Because there was such an age span in the school (children ranged from primary through eighth grade), discipline was always a problem for the teacher. One of the early teachers had trouble with the big boys spitting tobacco juice on the floor. He solved this by bringing a spittoon to school.

Another teacher enforced discipline by spanking her own brother. Students were sent into the entry-way for discipline but rubbers or boots would mysteriously appear in the school room as the mischief maker experimented with his fate. Often retold is the story of the day the mouse crawled up teacher's leg.

The Childs Cobblestone School, like so many other early schools opened its doors one evening each week for the community to enjoy Singing School. People recall how the singing teacher would arrive with his song books, tuning fork and musical knowledge.

The recollections of attending country school would not be complete without the picnic held on the last day of school, the broken arms and elbows received sliding down hill or playing leapfrog, climbing on the school ledge and hanging on to the cobblestones to peek in the windows to see what was going on, the potatoes that were baked in the furnace, the long walks to and from school, no matter what the weather and the most outstanding souvenir — the lifelong friendships made in the one-room schoolhouse.



Gaines schoolhouse

H & A SUPERETTE

Henry and Agnes Radzinski

Childs, New York

Cobblestone Church is Restored

by O. W. Shelgren, Jr.

Whenever a group of people undertake to construct a building, one of the first things done is to form a building committee. And in 1834 when this building was constructed, John Proctor, Joseph Billings and W. W. Ruggles comprised said committee.

The building of which they oversaw the construction was a simple building typical of the small country and village churches of Western New York. Sitting on the north side of Ridge Road in the hamlet of Fairhaven (as Childs was then named) it was built with cobblestones from the surrounding fields. These cobblestones were laid in courses approximately 4-1/4" on center in height, the corner quoins were roughly cut from limestone and vary in size from 8" by 14" to 9" by 23". The first floor, raised up on a high basement, is entered by a center doorway which opens into a cross hall which gives access to the church proper, and by a stair at each end, to the galleries. Originally the high center pulpit was at the Ridge Road end of the church, traces of it can be seen on the wall at this location and on the floor). The white painted pews on the main floor faced this pulpit and had paneled doors and paneled ends. At the upper level a white painted paneled railing formed the front of the galleries which were on three sides of the church. Unlike the main floor pews, the gallery pews are of simple wood planks with no moldings or any attempt at any architectural pretensions. The church was lighted by daylight entering through double hung windows, 20 panes of glass (7" by 9" each) in each sash. A two-stage wood tower crowned the exterior. Since the land sloped down from the Ridge Road the high basement was above grade at the sides and rear and permitted a large and well lighted meeting room under the church.

The original steps to the main entrance were probably a high flight of wood steps leading up from the road.

Up to the time of the dedication the congregation met in various homes and school houses in Gaines and Fairhaven, and were served by traveling pastors. Kneeland Townsend and Charles Hammond were among the first of these "itinerant pastors" to visit the area. About the time of the building dedication, the congregation called William Andrews to its service as pastor. He remained only a year, leaving to take a church in Buffalo. It appears the congregation struggled from the outset to keep this pulpit filled for the records indicate that the tenures of Mr. Andrews' successors were short, and about the end of the



Rustically attractive church interior.

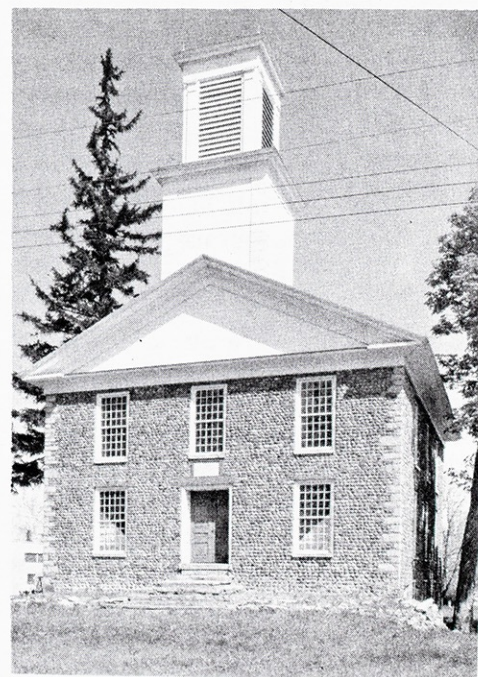


Interior view of the church foyer. Note stairways.

Civil War the building's doors were closed.

In 1874 Rev. Nelson Snell, who was employed as a missionary by the Niagara Association of the Universalist Church, visited the area as a kind of John the Baptist. His fiery zeal and words full of encouragement aroused people to revive the Childs Society. People came forth and \$1,000.00 was raised to repair and remodel the building.

In 1874 the church was remodeled. The old pulpit was removed, the pews were taken up and turned around. In this process the doors were removed and the curved tops on the ends were installed. At the north end - opposite the entrance doors - the gallery was removed and a raised platform was installed. On this platform a modern pulpit was placed and on a wall behind a mural was painted, giving the illusion of an alcove behind the pulpit and a greater importance to this, the now principal end of the church. The old doors from the pews were cut down and used to form a suitable facing for the platform. As white woodwork was no longer fashionable, the doors, pews and gallery railings were grained. At the entrance end of the church on the second floor a new opening was cut into the wall where the original pulpit stood to form a kind of gallery over the main hall. It may have been at this time that the stone and brick entrance terrace was built. The stone in the retaining walls has a



Cobblestone Church
(Exterior view)

different "feeling" when compared to the stone quoins of the main building. Furthermore there is a good deal of Medina red sandstone in the terrace walls and virtually none in the main body of the church.

With the growth of Albion and the removal of the congregation thereto, the building fell upon quiet days. The tower was demolished in the 1890's rather than to repair it. Finally in 1960 the threatened sale of the building and property to commercial interests resulted in the formation of the Cobblestone Soci-

(Concluded on P. 16)

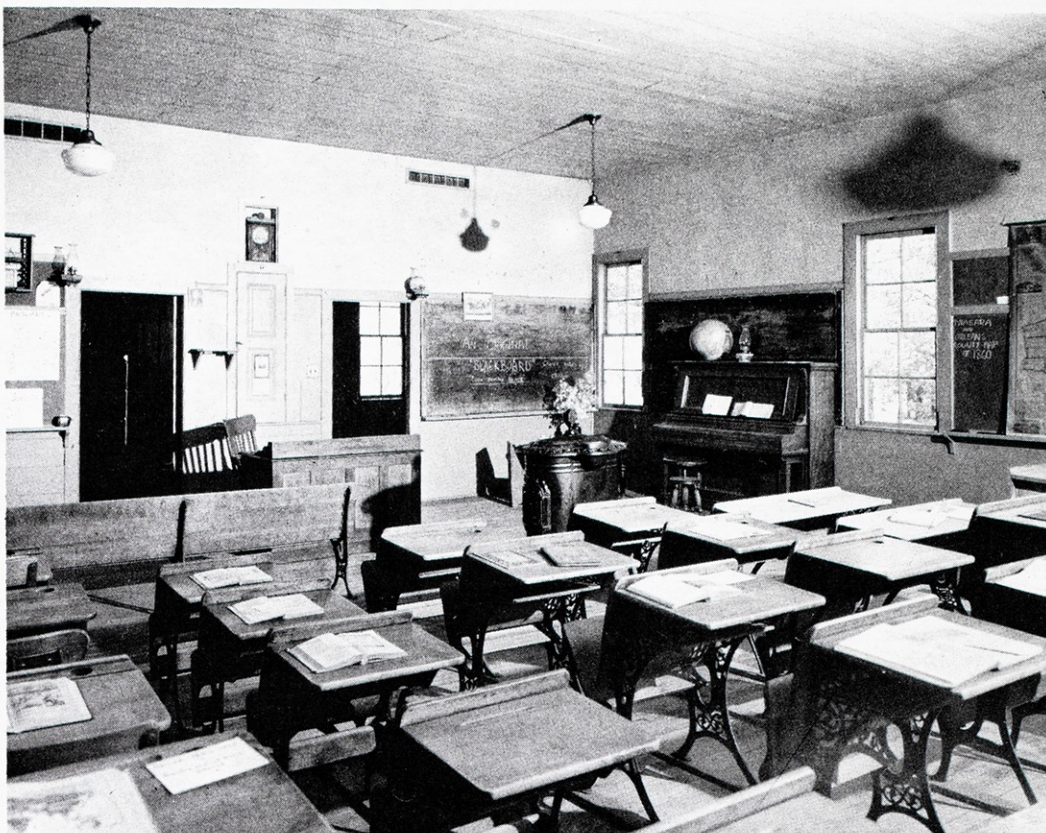
The school Bell rings

by J. Howard Pratt

On June 8, 1965, the school bell rang calling to class 32 fifth grade students and their teacher, Mrs. L. Johnson of Albion Grammar School for a day at the old time school with J. Howard Pratt, teacher.

Roll call, a verse of America was followed by "The Birdies' Ball", a favorite 75 years ago. The students read from Swinton's Fifth Grade Readers used at the school before 1900.

The ten-thirty recess was the treat of the morning when the visitors played pom-pom pull-away with Mr. Pratt. For Nature Study, they learned the traits and habits of



Nostalgic thoughts enter the minds of school visitors who were educated in classrooms such as this one at Childs. Note stereotype desks, small chalkboards.

Tours

With the Cobblestone Society organized and motivated to save the rural school and Universalist Church at Childs, finances had to be considered. It was decided to hold spring tours of cobblestone houses to raise money and to publicize these buildings found principally in a limited area of Western New York State.

The five tours to date have sampled houses of different types in Orleans, Wayne Cayuga and Ontario counties. One-room rural schools remodeled for modern living, churches, small story and one-half houses, two-story houses with or without wings, Post-Colonial and Greek Revival houses and an occasional late period house built in a Victorian style — all have been included. Some houses are furnished with antiques and others with very modern furniture but all are comfortable and measure up to present day standards of modern convenience. Some houses have plain woodwork but others have elaborate woodwork, fine balustrades and an occasional fireplace. (Cobblestone houses were built in the era when fireplaces were being replaced by the new and more efficient stoves.) After taking these tours, visitors agree that they could find a cobblestone house in which they could be most happy.

On June 11, 1966, the Cobblestone Tour hopes to show the masons' art as developed in Niagara County — one of the lake counties in which cobblestone buildings are also abundant.

the kildeer and saw a nest filled with eggs.

The picnic lunch at noon was a new experience for the modern fifth grade and it seemed as if the bell rang too soon, calling them from a game of prisoner's goal.

For half an hour Mr. Pratt made pioneer Orleans County live again for the group. The question period was spirited that followed his ex-

planation of old books, maps, slates, desks and blackboards. Mrs. Johnson helped with the old fashioned spell-down from the same Blue Back speller that stumped their grandparents. The day in the old rural school closed too quickly as the bus drove up to the front door but the pleasant memories linger in so many letters of "thanks", we had a wonderful time."

Society objectives

The Cobblestone Society motto "Dedicated to the Preservation of Cobblestone Architecture in America", sums up its basic objectives. The "Seven Basic Objectives of the Society", were established at its first meeting in October 1960. They are;

1. To preserve and protect our cobblestone heritage for future generations of Americans.

2. To operate as a non-profit educational and historical institution any cobblestone or other building the society may acquire.

3. To maintain, preserve and restore the examples of cobblestone art within the village of Childs to their original conditions as in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

To aid in restoring other parts of the village to the same condition whenever possible.

To work towards establishing Childs as a cobblestone museum village reflecting life in the second quarter of the 19th century.

4. To establish a museum and library as headquarters for collection and dissemination of information concerning the cobblestone art and all related aspects of regional art and history.

5. Through the museum to aid all cobblestone owners in preserving and restoring their property to its original condition through technical advice and financial aid whenever possible.

6. To increase public knowledge and appreciation for the historical and architectural value of our surviving cobblestone buildings.

7. To unite the efforts of all those interested in preserving the remaining examples of cobblestone architecture.

Oak Orchard Sand & Gravel

READY MIXED CONCRETE - WASHER SAND AND
GRAVEL CULVERT RD., MEDINA ,N. Y.

DON RORICK

Notes from other Cobblestone centers

YATES COUNTY by Guy L. Hobart

There are now nine cobblestone houses in Yates County. George R. Young built with fieldstones from 1834 to 1848. Barron and Lamoreaux were builders with lake washed stones at a slightly later period. South of Rushville there was a round cobblestone one-room school-house which burned in 1920.

South of Himrod is the Dr. Spence House which has always been in the Spence family. In 1848 Dr. Henry Spence had lake-washed stones gathered along Lake Ontario shipped by boat from Sodus Point to Starkey Point, about forty-five miles. The stones were then hauled overland thirteen miles by ox team. Because of the difficulty in securing a large supply of these stones, the rows are farther apart in this masonry than usual.

WAYNE COUNTY by Dorothy S. Facer County Historian

In 1955 when Mr. Verlan Klahn of Newark did a Hoffman Scholarship paper on the cobblestone buildings of Wayne County, he listed 152 structures either wholly or partly of cobblestone masonry. The earliest marked structure is the Blaisdell home northeast of Lyons which bears the name of Henry Van DerBilt and the date 1831. Two houses in Sodus Center may be older but there is no proof. The former Riker home north of Ontario built in the 1840's has a later addition dated '1868' which is the most recent cobblestone building in Wayne County.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY by Marie C. Preston County Historian

The cobblestone building at 30 Center Street, Geneseo, is one of several buildings constructed of small cobblestones, built in 1838, probably by Hugh McBride of the village, at a cost of \$4,000. For 94 years it served as a school but in 1932 became the Livingston County Historical Museum.

Miss Margaret E. Gilmore, Town and Village Historian for Geneseo found the following advertisement in the Livingston Register of May 1838:

"Notice to Builders — Cash Job — The subscribers as a committee will receive proposals till the 15th day of June next for furnishing the materials and building a . . . School House for the Village of Geneseo, thirty-six feet wide by fifty-six feet long, with two wings for en-

trances and Wood Houses. The walls of the building to be made of small stone and well finished. For further particulars and reference to the plans of the Building, en-

quire at the office of Charles Colt, Esq. Any information will be given by calling on either of the subscribers. Gurden Nowlen, Allen Ayrault, D. H. Bissell, Charles Colt."



Tri-eaved home, Auburn



Millville Academy



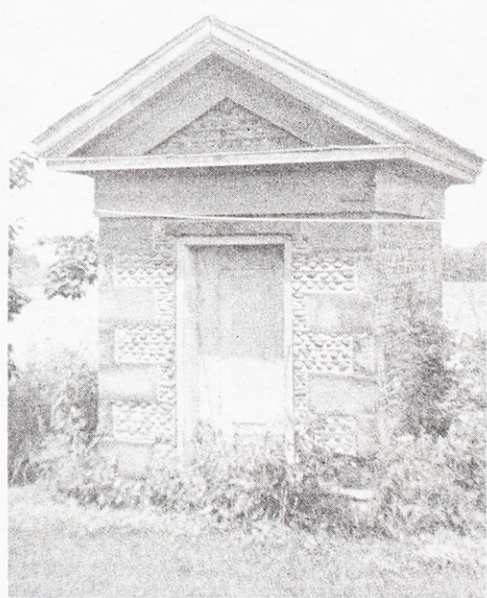
Church at Middleport



Victor general store



Greek style at Geneva



Cobblestone smokehouse

Congratulations For A Job Well Done

The Family Hardware Inc.

58 N. Main St.

Robert N. Babbitt, Owner

Albion, N. Y.

John Cunneen, his diary

by Mrs. Charlotte Cunneen Hackett

John Cunneen, the Irish immigrant lad who became attorney general of New York State, planned to become a lawyer when he taught at the Cobblestone School in Childs in 1873. For while teaching he was studying law in the office of Judge Church in Albion.

Queried about her father, Mrs. Charlotte Cunneen Hackett of Hyde Park on the Hudson, a life member of the Cobblestone Society, writes:

"This past week I reread father's diary of 1873 and noticed that he walked from Albion to Fair Haven (Childs) every day three miles each way. Astonishing is it not? Now and then someone came along with a team and gave him a lift. Often appears the sentence "School went pleasantly today." One entry reads, "Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bass and Miss Elizabeth Bass visited the school

today which pleased me." He married the Elizabeth mentioned in 1876. I believe they were engaged at this time but my father was very poor and while teaching, was studying law in the office of Chief Justice Sanford E. Church in Albion. He kept bachelor's quarters, getting his own meals in his room."

John Cunneen was born in Ennis, Ireland, May 18, 1848 where his family lived in a cottage of sunbaked brick with a thatched roof. He was next to the eldest of seven sons, all named for the apostles. He must have carried many eggs five miles to the store to pay for his passage to America. Coming across the ocean on a sailing vessel in 1860 he was cold, hungry and seasick. He spent most of the voyage huddled against the mast or a smokestack for warmth. Reaching Albany by railroad he made the trip to Albion

by packet boat where he was met by a cousin named Scanlan.

"Shoes and stockings were a big problem. During the next three years he worked on a farm for his room and board while attending school. No clothes were furnished.

"His jobs were many and varied while he managed to get an education, study law and was finally admitted to the bar. But he always said he found the trades he had learned of inestimable value in questioning laborers and workmen in accident cases for he knew what they were talking about. His ability soon marked him as one of the best trial lawyers in Western New York.

"He tried establishing a newspaper in Albion, The Weekly News. He helped organize the Orleans County Bar Association serving as its first secretary. He flouted convention when he defended an Albion youth who had murdered his father but contrary to public opinion had more business than ever."

An opportunity to join the law firm of Tabor, Sheen, Cunneen and Coatsworth beckoned him to Buffalo in 1893. When the firm failed, he opened his own office employing several other lawyers.

He became Attorney General of New York State in 1901 under the Odell Administration, the only Democrat elected to office. On his staff was Judge Sanford Church, the grandson of Judge Church under whom he had studied law in Albion.

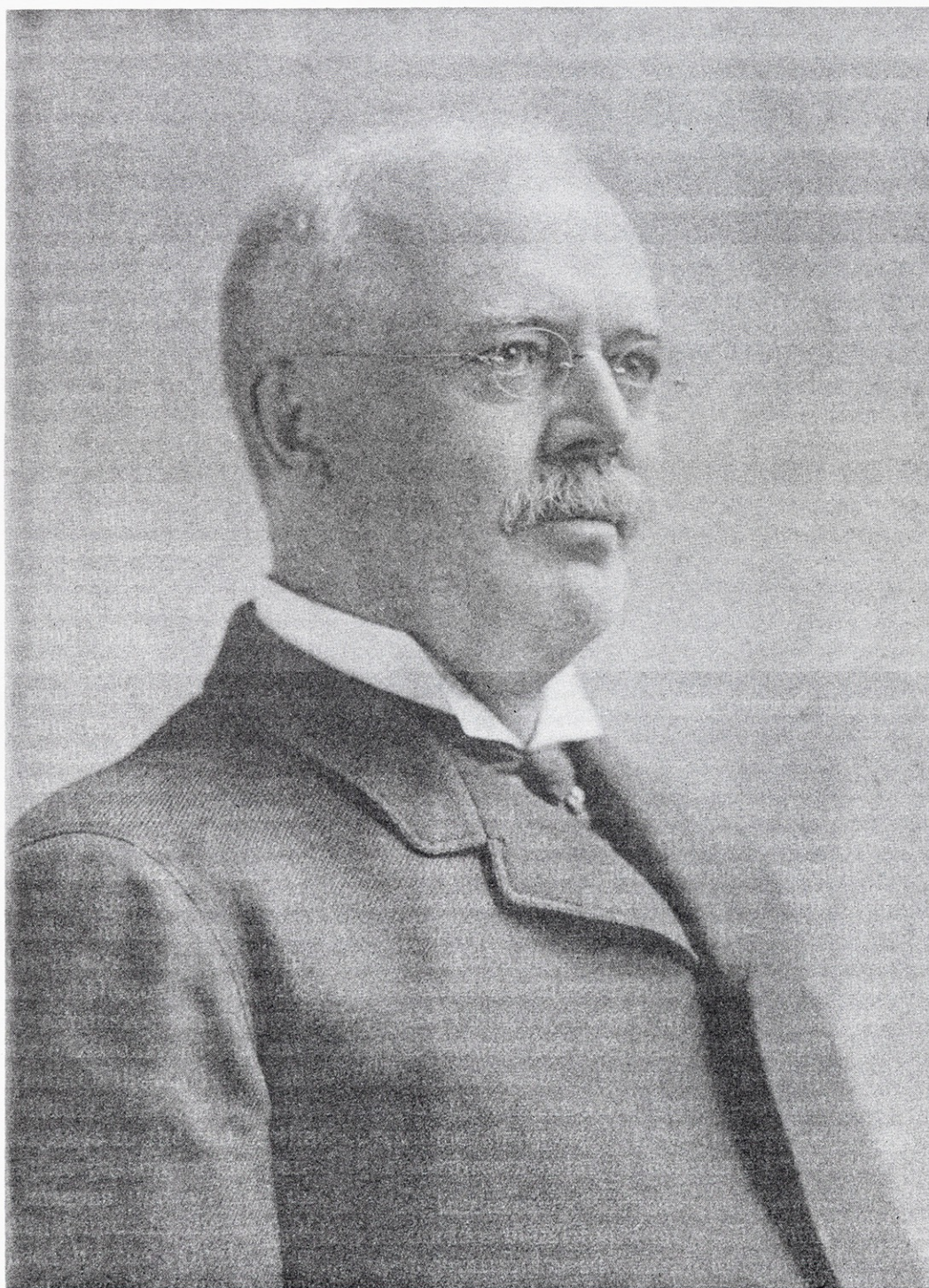
"One important case during father's sojourn in Albany was the Franchise Tax case. Dad argued the case alone against seven leading corporation lawyers and against a great deal of popular opposition for it took away personal privileges. Again he was as unpopular as he had been when he defended the boy in Albion. He won. That night a telegram of congratulation came from President Theodore Roosevelt — a Republican President to a Democratic Attorney General."

It was an odd coincidence that some 40 years before John Cunneen had come to Albany as a lonely boy of twelve years with all his worldly possessions tied up in a bandanna handkerchief slung over his shoulder from a stick poked through the knot.

"In February 1907 my father developed a severe cold and died of lobar pneumonia, the day he was scheduled to deliver an important Washington birthday address. We buried him in the Catholic Cemetery in Albion.

"Since the days when father taught school at the Cobblestone Schoolhouse we have cherished our friendship with the Church family.

"His life proves that America is indeed the land of opportunity."



John Cunneen

LaMont Fruit Farm

Albion, N. Y. A Century Farm - started in 1815

Thomas E. LaMont - 5th Generation George F. and Roger E. LaMont - 6th Generation

Crisp-Air McIntosh and Delicious now available

The search Continues

by Robert W. Frasch
President, Cobblestone Society

Dozens of historians and enthusiasts have combed New York's records and byways in recent years in the first organized effort to locate and record our cobblestone buildings. The results of this search are filed with individual folders for each structure. Each file is easily located by county and town, with county maps showing the exact location of most structures. From this collective research, which is still in progress, has emerged an increasingly accurate picture of our cobblestone heritage.

This valuable file now permits a clearer estimate of the location and number of our cobblestone buildings. Rochester is certainly the numerical center, with most structures within a radius of about 60 miles outside of the Flower City. A look at the map of New York State, county by county, will reveal a more accurate picture. The geographic center of cobblestone structures would more likely be to the east of Rochester in adjacent Wayne County where over 150 have been recorded. The next strongest concentration is along Lake Ontario in Orleans and Monroe counties which have over 100 each. Next follows Livingston and Ontario counties which have between 50 and 100. Niagara, Genesee and Onondaga counties each have at least 30 buildings.

Other counties with a significant number of structures but having less than 30 each would include; Wyoming, Steuben, Yates, Cayuga, Oswego, Cortland, Oneida and Madison. No other county in the York State has more than a few rare exceptions.

What is the boundary of this cobblestone region? South from Lake Ontario they become more infrequent with a widely dispersed line extending, west to east, through the following settlements; Youngstown on the Niagara River, Alexander, Warsaw, Nunda, Bath, Elmira, Cortland, Cazenovia, Madison, Richfield Springs, Herkimer, Holland Patent, and back to Lake Ontario at Woodville.

Other cobblestone buildings have been found both to the east and to the west. No one has yet explained the origins of the few rare examples scattered eastward along the Mohawk Valley and as far as Bennington and Brattleboro in Vermont.

New Yorkers following the frontier westward during the 1840's and



Pultneyville home has palatial setting.



Cobblestone crypt carries 1879 date.

1850's, built cobblestone homes in Paris Plains, Ontario; in southern Michigan and especially in Wisconsin. Yorkers from Farmington in Ontario County, settled Farmington, Michigan and also built in the cobblestone manner. Possibly as much as ten per cent of America's cobblestone buildings may eventually be located outside of New York State in the Great Lakes Region.

This preliminary survey suggests a total of at least 500 cobblestone structures can be found in New York State alone. This easily dwarfs all earlier estimates and

may be considered a very conservative figure. The total may be close to 600.

As this valuable file is enlarged with additional data and photos documenting the history of every building, the full story of our cobblestone heritage will be revealed. Already it has been used by the society for organizing cobblestone tours and in membership drives. It was also used in part by Mr. Carl Schmidt in his recent book, "Cobblestone Masonry". Future research on this topic will be based on this important part of the societies' collections.

GUIDO'S SUPERMARKET, INC.

"We Specialize in the Best"

Albion, New York

Albion, New York

Ontario church made of Cobblestone

“Whatever claims Paris may have to architectural merit in Ontario today, exists in twelve houses and two churches built of masonry broadly termed ‘cobblestone,’” so writes Kay Tew Marshall, who has made a study of cobblestone architecture in Ontario, Canada.

“The art of cobblestone masonry was brought to Paris by an American, Levi Boughton, who came here

Memberships

One does not have to be “invited” to join Cobblestone Society. An interest expressed to any member or officer, accompanied by \$2, will make you a welcome member of this group striving to preserve our heritage. Neither do you have to own or live in a cobblestone house. Many members live in brick or wooden houses but support the organization loyally. Send membership application below to; Mrs. William Phillips, Hulberton, N. Y.

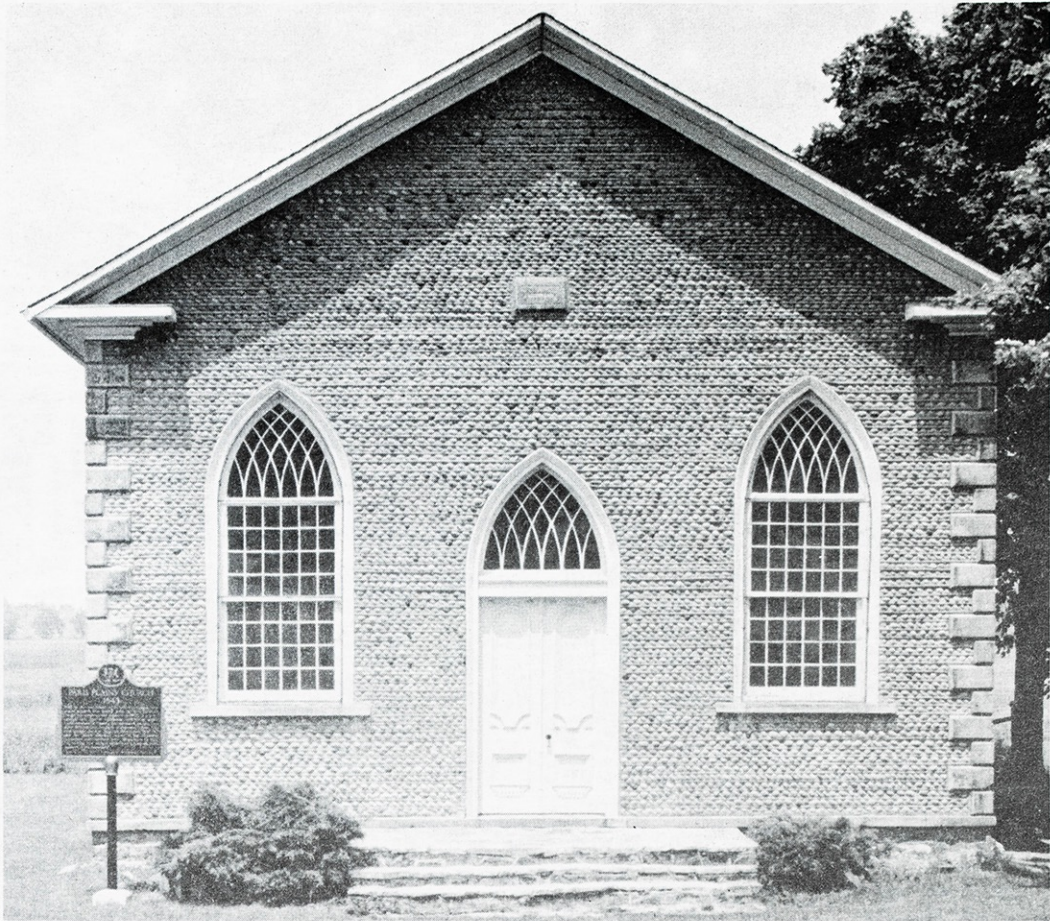
Name	
Address	
Annual dues \$2 ☐ Patron \$25 ☐	
Student \$.50 ☐ Life \$100 ☐	

Church

(Continued from P. 11)

ety. In 1963 the title to the building and grounds passed to the Society and the work of preservation and restoration began. Fortunately it was more a matter of preservation as the building had undergone so few changes since 1834. The roof has been repaired and broken windows replaced. An old photograph showing the original tower enabled this restoration. Loose plaster was removed and replaced and the ceilings repainted. The basement has had a new concrete floor installed for the transformation of this area into a museum display room. Springtime of 1966 will see the front terrace rebuilt and landscaped, as well as the bell installed in the tower. Once again many people working together have brought life into the Cobblestone church building to keep it a landmark on the Ridge Road.

The Cobblestone Society and the neighboring community sincerely appreciate the generosity of John D. Brush in restoring the bell and the tower on the Childs Church. It will be dedicated later in 1966 in memory of his mother, Mrs. Eva Brush.



The church at Paris Plains, Ontario.

from Normandale, Albany County, New York State, in 1838, with his wife, Sida Mann.

“Of particular interest is St. James’ Anglican Church, which was the first cobblestone building in Paris, and the Paris Plains Church, north of the town, built by a group

of pioneers from stones gathered from the fields of their own farms.

“Of Levi Boughton himself, little is known, except that he lived out his life in Paris, becoming a man of property. He had sixteen children, yet curiously, not one of his descendants now lives in Paris.

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